

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 899 without my signature, as it would constitute a departure from the focus of the IHSS program and increase costs for activities other than direct services to consumers.

The bill would authorize counties to reimburse IHSS providers for up to six hours of training per calendar year. Although the Administration supports improved quality for IHSS providers and training activities, I believe IHSS program resources must be prioritized to serve beneficiaries first. The purpose of the IHSS program is to provide services to enable eligible persons to remain safely in their homes as an alternative to out-of-home care. This bill is a departure from the program's main purpose.

This bill would lead to significant increases in training costs and administrative costs for both state and counties. Covering these increased costs would reduce available state resources for other priorities including maintaining eligibility for health and human services programs that serve millions of low-income Californians.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger